

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 051242

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ISLAMABAD DTD 28 FEB 1978 QTE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2039

NODIS

DEPT REPEAT TO PARIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MNUC FR PK US

SUBJECT: JACOMET VISIT TO PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 044062 (PARIS 05425)

1. FRENCH AMB LEGOURRIEREC FEB 28 OUTLINED FOR ME
RESULTS OF JACOMET VISIT TO PAKISTAN, FEB 17-23.

2. JACOMET HAD AT LEAST FOUR MEETINGS WITH GOP OFFICIALS
OF SEVERAL LEVELS, INCLUDING GENERAL ZIA; HE ALSO VISITED CHASMA
SITE. THROUGHOUT, HE EMPHASIZED PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF
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PRES. GISCARD TO NONPROLIFERATION GOALS WORLDWIDE,
AND STRONGLY DEN ED THIS WAS RESULT OF ANY USG PRESSSREBM
JACOMET REPORTEDLY TOLD GOP HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO POINT
OUT THAT ANY FRENCH GOVT ELECTED IN MARCH WILL HAVE
STIFFER VIEWS THAN HERETOFORE ON NONPROLIFERATION.

3. MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSIONS:

(A) AFTER INITIAL TRY AT SELLING CO-PROCESSING, JACOMET FELL BACK ON "APPARENT CO-PROCESSING" ALTERNATIVE; HE ACKNOWLEDGED TO GOP THAT FRANCE ACCEPTED PAKISTANI REFUSAL TO CONSIDER CO-PROCESSING.

(B) JACOMET STRONGLY URGED AND GEN. ZIA AGREED "NOT TO REFUSE TO STUDY" THE "APPARENT CO-PROCESSING" PROPOSAL, WHICH FRENCH NEVER DESCRIBED WITH THAT TERM, TO AVOID ANY USE OF WORD "BACK-PROCESSING". GHULAM ISHAQ, MOST SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT, WAS MOST ADAMANT IN REJECTING COUNTERPROPOSAL. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY FAROOK (DEPUTY TO PAEC CHAIRMAN) AND OTHERS, BUT HE WAS OVERRULED.

(C) NEXT STEP IS NEW VISIT BY A FRENCH TEAM OF EXPERTS, TO BE HEADED BY QUAI FIGURE -- POSSIBLY JACOMET-- IN LATE MARCH. PURPOSE IS TO STUDY HOW AN ADD -ON FACILITY TO CHASMA REPROCESSING PLANT MIGHT BE ENGINEERED. FRENCH ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTY OF ADDING IT ON FROM SITE POINT OF VIEW, BUT INSISTED IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

H (D) GOP INSISTED THAT WHILE THEY RELUCTANTLY WILL STUDY NEW FRENCH PROPOSAL, FRANCE MUST ALSO STUDY A NEW GOP PROPOSAL THAT FRENCH CITIZENS SHOULD BE PERMANENTLY SECRET

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STATIONED AT PUREX PLANT TO OVERSEE NONPROLIFERATION SAFEGUARDS. JACOMET AGREED TO STUDY THIS BUT POINTED OUT THAT GISCARD'S FIRM POLICY IS TO ELIMINATE NONPROLIFERATION, NOT MERELY TO ADD ON SAFEGUARDS FOR PLUTONIUM STOCKS.

(E) FRENCH PROMISED THERE WOULD BE "NO SIGNIFICANT" EXTRA COST TO GOP IN NEW PROPOSAL. GOP COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENTS AGAINST ANY DELAY IN PROGRAM, ASSERTING THAT A NEW CHASMA POWER REACTOR (ADMITTEDLY NOT YET CONTRACTED FOR) WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1982 AND A FAST BREEDER REACTOR (THAT WOULD USE PLUTONIUM) WAS PROJECTED FOR COMPLETION IN 1990. FRENCH PRIVATELY RIDICULE THESE ASSERTIONS.

(F) JACOMET CARRIED A LETTER FROM GISCARD TO GEN. ZIA, AND LEGOURRIEREC EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A REPLY FROM GEN. ZIA ANY DAY NOW. LEGOURRIEREC MAY NOT FEEL FREE TO TELL ME OF CONTENTS; I THEREFORE SUGGEST AMB HARTMAN PROBE IN PARIS.

(G) GEN. ZIA SPOKE AT LENGTH OF THE INABILITY OF ANY PAKISTANI GOVT TO ACQUIESCE IN MATERIAL CHANGES IN

REPROCESSING PLANT. HE EXPLICITLY BUT POLITELY REPEATED EARLIER THREATS TO CANCEL SAVIEM TRUCK DEAL, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF TWO AIRBUSES, IF SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS ARE NOT WORKED OUT.

(H) FOUNDATIONS AND BUILDING SHELL AT CHASMA ARE WELL ALONG, WITH 1,000 PEOPLE WORKING THREE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFTS. GOP COMPLAINED MIGOROUSLY ABOUT LACK OF TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT, BUT JACOMET SAID SUCH TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT SIGNATURE OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON A NEW-STYLE PLANT.

4. I BRIEFLY REFERRED TO AMB SMITH'S STATEMENT TO JACOMET PARA 7 REFTEL ABOUT U.S. VIEWS AND OUR DIFFICULTIES
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WITH ANY FORM OF REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN, WH CH LEGOURRIEREC SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. HE SAID JACOMET HAD IMPRESS ON FROM AMB SMITH THAT "APPARENT CO-PROCESSING" WAS SOMEWHAT MORE PALATABLE TO USG THAN CO-PROCESSING, TO WHICH I REPLIED THAT MY REPORT SHOWED JUST THE REVERSE. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS IS JACOMET'S MISUNDERSTANDING OR LEGOURRIEREC'S.

5. COMMENT: I DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT "APPARENT CO-PROCESSING", OR WHATEVER FRENCH WILL CALL IT, IS SIMPLY A PLOY TO GAIN TIME WITH PAKISTANIS UNTIL FRENCH ELECTIONS, AS I HAD HOPED WAS THE CASE. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT PROBE THIS DIRECTLY I HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH INTEND TO PROCEED SERIOUSLY WITH ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF AN ADD-ON PLANT WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO PUREX SETUP. IF SO AS AMB SMITH TOLD JACOMET (REFTEL) THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW IN LIGHT OF FRENCH ASSURANCES TO USG. DEPT WILL WANT TO CONSIDER OTHER STEPS AFTER FRENCH ELECTIONS TO KEEP GOF ON A TRACK THAT WOULD AVOID IMPOSITION OF GLENN AMENDMENT AND SERIOUS TROUBLES IN BILATERAL US-PAK RELATIONS, NOT TO MENTION SETBACK IN NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS./ HUMMEL UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE051242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O JTHYDEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978021/aaaaaaat.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: f2da32cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 044062 (PARIS 05425)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3422537
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JACOMET VISIT TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: MNUC, FR, PK, US
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2da32cc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014